Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the Title of the Invention set forth on page 1 as follows:

A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR USING A ~~USE~~ LOADER FOR ~~SIGNALING THE SYSTEM~~ RECEIVER DEVICE SOFTWARE UPDATES ~~UPDATE SERVICE~~

Please insert the following *new* section heading on page 1, immediately preceding line 2 (and following the previously introduced section heading and paragraph containing the Cross Reference to Related Applications, as entered by Preliminary Amendment):

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following *new* section heading on page 1, immediately preceding line 4:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following *new* section heading on page 1, immediately preceding line 25:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following *new* section heading on page 2, immediately preceding line 27:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following *new* section heading on page 2, immediately preceding line 29:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 28 with the following amended paragraph:

In set-top box hardware 50, and typically within the digital television domain, typically updates to the system software for the set-top box will be received by the front-end 62 and temporarily placed into memory 58. The new system software is typically broadcast on a separate service within the broadcast stream. To perform a system software update, the set-top box must first find the service containing the new system software, then load the new system software in memory 58, and finally (after verifying the new system software is

correct), store the new system software in some type of non-volatile memory, which in the preferred embodiment is FLASH 52 ~~58~~ memory.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

The present invention address this problem by providing a loader 10 having functionality that is extended such that the loader 10 can be started in two different modes. The first mode allows the loader 10 to search for the system software update service. The second mode allows the loader 10 to search for the system software update service and, if the loader 10 finds this service, it starts performing a system software update. The first mode is not provided for in current loader implementations. The present invention provides system software that does not search for the system software update service itself, but instead employs a separate loader 10 to perform the function of searching for the system software update service, akin to the first mode [[1]] discussed above.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

Test local download server 14 will search for a download server that has available upgrades that can be downloaded after the loader performs forced download sequence 12 and verify current image 13. A local download server can be software running on a PC at the same location as the set top box or at a local shop where the user can bring the system for repair. Test local download server 14 is [[a]] useful in instances where the software image in the system becomes corrupt and no software images are currently being broadcasted. The use of a local download server (either in the home or at a shop) allows the user to get a correct software image into the system again. It is the intent of the preferred embodiment, that the local download server be used for emergency situations. If a download server is detected, then the image that is available at this server will be the selected image.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

After download selected image 28 is performed, the selected image is tested to verify that it was downloaded correctly at decision block 46. If the download of the selected image is determined by decision block 46 to be successful, then verify downloaded image 20 determines if the image is corrupt and decision block 47 branches program operation

accordingly. If decision block 47 determines that the downloaded image is corrupt, a branch is made to load current image 26 to load the existing image. If decision block 47 determines that the downloaded image is not corrupt, then the image is written to flash memory 22 and the loader 10 returns to system software operation 30. If decision block 49 determines that the write is not successful, then operation branches to download standard image 18.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

The foregoing discussion describes the embodiments most preferred by the inventor. Variations of these embodiments ~~embodiment~~ will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, accordingly, the scope of the invention should not be limited by the above discussed embodiments but be measured by the appended ~~claim~~ claims.